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Kabul fighting spreads, many killed

ABUL (R) — At least 25 people were killed and more than 200 wounded in fighting between two Mujahideen guerrilla groups in Afghanistan's interim government spread to central Kabul Sunday, witnesses said. Heavy artillery and rocket fire between the pro-Nazari group of Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Massoud and the Hezb-e-Wahdat group of Abdul Wahid Karzai was heard in the city. Many buildings were on fire and dense smoke was rising in the air, the witnesses said. Doctors at three Kabul hospitals said they had at least 25 people dead and some 220 wounded in two days of fighting, which threatened the prospects of a planned nationwide council at the weekend to elect a new interim president. But they said the casualty figure could be as high as all the dead and wounded were not brought to hospitals. An immediate comment on the fighting was available from President Mohammad Rabbani's interim government in which both Shoorzadegan, dominated by his Jamiat-e-Islami party, and Hezb-e-Wahdat are rivals.

Iran, Britain debt pact

AN (Petra) — Jordan and United Kingdom Sunday signed a memorandum on reaching a \$10.5 million of British loans to Jordan. The debts are to be repaid in 20 instalments, with the first due March 31, 2003. The memorandum was signed by Finance Minister Bassem Jaradat and British Ambassador to Jordan Sir Eytan.

Iraq meets Iraqi

AN (Petra) — Lower of Parliament Speaker Latif Arabiyat Sunday met Iraqi National Council member Hazen Bajlan, who congratulated him on his re-election as Speaker for a third term. Arabiyat and Mr. Bajlan discussed means of enhancing bilateral relations in the parliament and reviewed the current situation in Iraq. The two also discussed prospects for Arab move to lift the internal embargo on Iraq. They discussed the need for the Arabs to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs under the pretext of protecting the Kurds in north Iraq. Arabiyat praised the Jordanian government's stance towards Iraq and its stands towards Iraq.

Deaths and child

AN (Petra) — Three dead — a husband and wife and a one-year-old child — were found Sunday evening in a closed car in the district of Al Rashid in the city. The police sources said. The husband was shot in the head, the wife, who is a nurse, was shot in the right arm. The child was shot in the head. It was suicide attempt, the sources said. No further details were given.

is reject joining

E (AP) — Swiss voters ended weeks of bitter and rejected plans to unite with Europe in a free-trade zone stretching from the Alps to the Aegean. The referendum results left a hole in the middle of the European Economic Area, an association with 20 nations European Commission that would include more than 370 million consumers. It speaks in western Europe supported the proposal by an 80 per cent margin — while the two of Switzerland's seven million population who speak German overwhelmingly to reject the proposal. Also were opposed.

is ordered to

UPIED JERUSALEM — A battalion commander ordered soldiers to disperse Palestinian demonstrators by their jeeps headlong into the city. An Israeli newspaper said. Military traffic police investigating a month ago soldier was injured during a charge in the occupied Strip, the Hadassah daily. The army confirmed military police were investigating a "matter," but said no criminal investigation was under way. The Gaza Centre for law, a human rights group, knew of several such cases. It said on Dec. 1 when Fatah was run over and killed in Gaza City.

Peace talks progressing as they should — Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber said on Sunday that the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations were progressing as they should. He said the Jordanian team's first priority would be pressing Israel to agree to clarify points of a draft joint agenda governing future talks. "The Israelis have to agree," he said. Jordan is seeking changes in parts of the language of the document worked out by the negotiating teams at the last round of talks. Israeli will also ask for certain unspecified changes from the Jordanians, reports said. The agenda, which talks of an eventual peace treaty between the two states, is the most visible progress reached between Israel and any of the Arab sides in over a year of negotiations. However, Jordan, like the other Arab states, has committed itself to holding off on any peace treaty with Israel until an overall settlement to the Palestinian problem is reached. Dr. Abu Jaber affirmed that Jordan is committed to a comprehensive settlement based on the return of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights in exchange for peace with the Jewish state. "The Israelis must withdraw from the occupied territories," including East Jerusalem, Dr. Abu Jaber said.

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Abu Jaber said. Syrian-run newspapers said Sunday that Israel's "intransigent stand" in the peace talks indicates little prospect of progress. "Peace will remain an intractable issue as long as Israel adheres to its inflexible position," the Tishrin daily said in an editorial. All have voiced increasing concern at the lack of progress in the talks. The Syrian comments echoed similar sentiments from other Arabs involved in the peace talks, particularly the Palestinians who feel that they are the most vulnerable in the negotiations. "The 8th round... is not likely to be any better than the previous rounds because of Israel's intransigent stand," Tishrin said. "There is no way to get out of the deadlock into which Israel has led the peace process, except by activating the American role to rein in Israel's opposition to peace prerequisites," Tishrin said. The Syrians believe that the talks have bogged down despite Israeli hints of some form of withdrawal from parts of the Golan Heights. But Damascus has insisted that the Jewish state observe the land-for-peace formula and pull out of the whole Golan.

Palestinians send smaller team to eighth round of bilaterals

By Sama Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — A smaller-than-usual Palestinian delegation left Amman for Washington Sunday to attend the eighth round of peace negotiations with Israel after the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) decided not to boycott the talks following the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Lebanon Friday. The decision to send a limited number of delegates to the next round, which starts today, was seen by analysts as a compromise by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who is coming under pressure for Palestinian participation from the U.S. and for withdrawal from PLO factions opposing the negotiations, which have made little progress in 13 months. The decision to send a sliced delegation — headed by chief negotiator Haidar Abdel Shafi and including negotiators Chasem Khatib, Saeb Erekat and Saeed Al Ameri, as well as spokesperson Hanan Ashrawi — was taken in Tunis early Sunday after an emergency meeting called by Mr. Arafat and attended by Executive Committee members. Normally up to 28 delegates and advisors attend the talks. A PLO spokesman was quoted by Wafa, the Palestinian news agency, as saying that the decision to send a limited delegation to Washington was the reaffirmation of the "commitment to the peace process and a gesture to

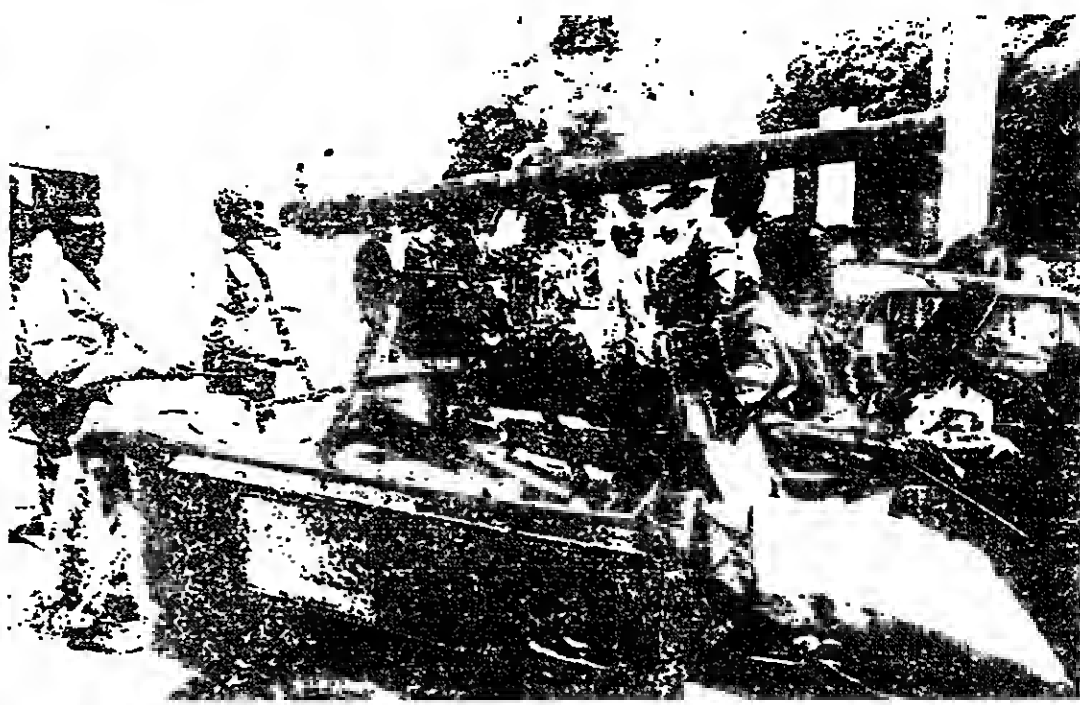
secure the conditions of success and continuation for it." "It was a compromise by Arafat," said a Palestinian observer in Amman. "He did not want to be blamed for obstructing the peace talks by sending a small delegation, and at the same time he wanted to prove that the PLO was the major player in the peace talks." Israel, with American help, rejected direct PLO participation in the peace talks before they were launched in Madrid in October last year, but the organisation has been the guiding force behind the Palestinian negotiators. The PLO had threatened to boycott the eighth round of talks unless the U.S. met some of its demands, including American intervention in getting Israel to provide new ideas for Palestinian interim self-government arrangements in the occupied territories, and Washington resuming its dialogue with the PLO, which was suspended in May 1990 after an aborted attack on a Tel Aviv beach by a Palestinian faction. Although there was no clear assurance by the Americans in response to the Palestinian demands, acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger had sent a message to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin blaming Israel for lack of progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track of the negotiations. The Palestinians have rejected an Israeli model of the interim

arrangements in the seventh round of talks last month because it "paved the way to annexing the occupied territories." Palestinian sources said that State Department officials had looked at the Israeli model and agreed that it was "impractical and not a good starter." According to Palestinian sources, Mr. Eagleburger had also sent a letter to the Palestinian delegation promising that he would urge Mr. Rabin to respond to the Palestinian reservations and criticisms of the Israeli model. The sources, none of whom wanted to be identified, also said that the U.S. official's letter had said he would urge the Israeli delegation to give a "serious hearing" to the Palestinian model of the interim phase and the transfer of authority over to the Palestinians, and suggested updating the Palestinian model "in light of the discussions with the Israelis in the past months." The sources added that the U.S. officials had said they were "impressed" with the way the Palestinian negotiators were engaging in talks with their Israeli counterparts, and that they believed the two sides were "setting the stage" for solving the problems despite the slow progress. The U.S. sources said, was also concerned with seeing "swift progress" on human rights violations against Palestinians in the occupied territories. Palestinians in general have become frustrated with lack of progress in achieving solid results in the 13-month talks, observers said. Human rights violations are continuing and Palestinians under Israeli occupation have not seen any concrete Israeli efforts to build confidence that the peace talks would produce tangible results on the ground. Sources close to the negotiations said that small progress inside the negotiating room cannot be felt except by those involved in the talks. According to a number of sources, the Israeli negotiating strategy is not to give any concessions quickly, even if they are not regarded as "concessions" by the Palestinians. For example, the Israelis had refused to discuss giving up unilateral control over the land until the last round. They began providing the Palestinian delegation with information they had refused to hand out in the past, such as information on settlements and water. The Palestinian participation has expanded to include those in the diaspora in all the working groups in the multilateral talks; Israel has approved diaspora Palestinians as experts in the bilaterals, and they have not totally rejected experts from Jerusalem.

Rabin expects peace pacts in 1993, seeks European role

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Sunday he was convinced Israel would reach peace agreements with some of its Arab neighbours in 1993 despite Arab pessimism over their 13-month-old talks. "I believe, am convinced, that in 1993 agreements will be reached — if not with all the delegations, with some of them," Mr. Rabin said before the start of an eighth round of talks in Washington Monday. He spoke before his departure for visits to Italy and Britain. He added he would use the five-day tour to raise European involvement in the peace process. Israel's economic ties with Europe and anti-Semitism in Europe. Mr. Rabin, who came to power in July vowing to

speed up peace efforts that stalled under rightist Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, said the talks had slowed during the U.S. presidential transition from George Bush to Bill Clinton. Mr. Rabin told reporters the United States must continue playing a unique role — but within limits. "The United States has a role, a special role, first and foremost in the bilateral negotiations, not by coercing, not by interfering, but by creating an atmosphere and conditions for the conducting of these negotiations," Mr. Rabin said. Mr. Rabin said that while in Rome and London, he planned to discuss Middle East peace moves, economic cooperation and curbing the rise of neo-Nazism and racism in Europe.



Heavily armed Abgal clan fighters, supporters of self-styled interim President Ali Mahdi Mohammad, wait with one of their jeeps in Mogadishu, ahead of the expected deployment Monday or Tuesday of 1,800 American marines as the vanguard of over 30,000 U.S. and other soldiers in Somalia (AFP photo)

Aid staff quit Somali town in countdown to U.S. deployment

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Gunmen terrorised aid workers in the famine-stricken Somali town of Baidoa at the weekend while 1,800 U.S. marines waited off the coast for orders to begin policing and aid operation hamstrung by extortion and threats. A spokesman for Care, the main agency distributing food in Baidoa, said all but two of its male staff had been evacuated after a torrid two days in Baidoa but calm had returned by Sunday. "Security has fallen apart. We tried to evacuate everybody but two had to stay because they figured they would be killed if they tried to leave," said Care's Rick Grant. It was the most serious incident of lawlessness since the United Nations announced last week that it would send a large force to end the looting of aid and intimidation of relief staff trying to contain famine threatening a million people.

It is unknown when the intervention force will land in the devastated Horn of Africa country, but Egypt, Turkey, Kuwait and Mauritania have joined the growing list of countries which have said they plan to send troops. Mauritania said it would send 300 troops to join the mainly U.S.-led force while Egypt and Turkey also said they would send soldiers but did not specify when or how many. The United States has said it will eventually send a force of more than 28,000 troops. Other countries which have offered or are sending troops include France, Canada, Belgium, Italy and Morocco. Somalis working for Care told staff that thugs planned to beat up staff, loot their belongings and

rape female relief workers. Mr. Grant said, "All agencies there received similar threats." The motive was not known. Aid staff in Baidoa have been blockaded in their compounds in recent weeks by angry staff demanding wage increases, aid sources said. Meanwhile a convoy of trucks carrying relief supplies moved out of Mogadishu's port Sunday for the first time in more than a month. Elsewhere, relief planes reached the isolated city of Bardera just as food was running out. Meanwhile, 1,800 U.S. marines prepared to come ashore from three warships off the Indian Ocean coast. The first detachment of more than 2,000 French troops will be ready to leave Djibouti Monday. (Continued on page 4)

Israel tightens security for intifada anniversary

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli forces tightened their grip on the occupied territories Sunday as tension rose in the run-up to this week's fifth anniversary of the start of the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule. A general strike called by Islamic Jihad, a fundamentalist group opposed to the current peace talks, disrupted business throughout the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank, including Arab East Jerusalem.

House assails 'Somalia invasion'...

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Sunday condemned the deployment of U.S. troops in Somalia and called on its executive office to issue a statement rejecting the American intervention in the war-torn country. The move was proposed by the 22-member Muslim Brotherhood Bloc in the House towards the end of the second meeting of the fourth and last ordinary session of Parliament, which was opened by His Majesty King Hussein Dec. 1. U.S. troops were expected to move into Somalia late Sunday, three days after the U.N. Security Council agreed to send international troops to Somalia in an effort to protect international aid supplies to millions of starving Somalis. "The Muslim Brotherhood deputies consider the American act aggressive and demand that it be condemned," Deputy Hamam Said told the House. He said the deployment of

U.S. troops in Somalia was "yet another colonial attack aiming at imposing hegemony on our land and threatening our nation." Deputy Yousef Al Azem echoed Dr. Said's words and proposed that the House issue a statement condemning the "invasion of Somalia." He said the United States aims at "besieging Sudan on the one hand and occupying land in the African continent ahead of invading it." The motion to condemn the sending of U.S. troops to Somalia was supported by leftist and pan-Arabist deputies. In its two-and-a-half-hour session, the House approved a draft response to King Hussein's Speech from the Throne. The House reply was drafted by a special panel elected last week. Representatives of the House will convey the reply to King Hussein Tuesday. The House also approved a draft law on technical and economic cooperation with China and referred four other laws to its

specialised committees. A draft law on establishing a municipal court was referred to the Law Committee along with a draft law on Sahab Municipality and the General Amnesty draft law which was issued by King Hussein last month. The House, which will hold its next session Wednesday, also referred a draft law on additional taxes to the Finance Committee. After restricting deputies' participation in the House panels to one permanent committee and one temporary one, the House elected its Law, Finance, Administrative and Foreign Affairs committees as well as panels on public freedoms, health and the environment, agriculture, rural areas and the badieh, energy and water and Palestine. Four deputies sent apologies for failing to attend the session while deputies Leith Shbeilat and Yacoub Qarrash did not attend without informing the House of their intention to be absent from the session.

... as Brothers, 'Unionists' slam U.S.

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — Two distinct political groupings in Jordan, including the powerful Muslim Brotherhood, have come out strongly against the American troop deployment in war-torn Somalia after the U.N. Security Council authorised the use of force to ensure that international relief supplies reach the starving millions in the Horn of Africa country. In a press statement issued Sunday in the name of the parliamentary office of the Islamic Movement, the Brotherhood accused the U.S. of trying to serve its "strategic and economic objectives" in the Horn of Africa by establishing a military presence in Somalia. In an advertisement appearing in a local paper, a pan-Arab nationalist group — Liberal Unionists — also levelled similar charges against Washington. Both groups charged that the U.S. was seeking to further con-

solidate what they described as the American control of Arab oil wealth in the wake of the Gulf crisis by establishing a base in the Horn of Africa to enable itself to defend sealanes and oil tankers. Also common in both group's charges was a theme that Washington's ultimate objectives included a close monitoring of Sudan and Yemen, two other Arab countries whose relations with the U.S. remain strained, and ensure Israeli domination by supporting the Jewish state's presence in Ethiopia. The Brotherhood, which proposed a resolution and pushed it through the Lower House of Parliament condemning the American move later Sunday (see separate story), asserted in its press release that "blocking the Islamic march in Africa" was also one of the American goals in sending troops to Somalia. Both the Brotherhood and the Liberal Unionists deplored the Arab handling of the Gulf crisis and the destruction of Iraq's

military strength and were harshly-critical of what they said were Arab inability and apathy which opened the way for the U.S. and its "hegemonic, aggressive" forces to have a foothold in Somalia under the "guise of humanitarian relief." While the Liberal Unionists, assailing "Arab impotence and indifference" towards Somalia, confined their call for immediate action to handle the Somali crisis within the Arab context, the Brotherhood called for Arab and Islamic action to feed the hungry in Somalia. "We view the inter-Arab killing and the death by starvation in Somalia as a reflection of the scandalous Arab inability to confront ... the issues facing the Arab Nation," said the Unionists' statement. "We call on the Arabs to shelve their differences and come to the rescue of Somalia, Sudan and Yemen before it is too late," it added. (Continued on page 5)

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U.N. transition regime may come to Somalia, says Ghali

ATLANTA, Georgia (Agencies) — The United Nations may seek to establish a "transitional authority" to run Somalia if its warring factions refuse to cooperate to end the country's anarchy, Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said Saturday.

U.N. diplomats will soon begin negotiating with rival factions and clan leaders for national reconciliation, with the goal of creating "a new Somali authority," Dr. Ghali said.

But he added it may be necessary for the world body to establish "a transitional authority" along the lines of its operation in Cambodia.

"Nothing has been decided. It depends on the reaction to our effort of the first contacts that we shall establish now between the different factions," said Dr. Ghali in an interview.

"If they will begin to find a solution to promote a reconciliation then they can have their own administration."

"If they are not able to do this then we will have to find a transitional authority. But nothing has been decided," the secretary-general said, speaking after a joint news conference with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

Dr. Ghali said that in Cambodia there was a "kind of co-existence" between a simultaneously operating U.N. authority and a Cambodian authority on the other side.

Earlier he denied the United Nations had any intention to "become a kingmaker" in Somalia, saying the country is independent and that its leaders "have to solve by themselves the problems of their country."

In any case, the U.N. chief said the world body will need "massive assistance" from member nations and others to facilitate Somalia's "reconstruction, rehabilitation, return of refugees, administration (and) forming the new police."

He declined to estimate how much money would be needed for reestablishing a viable government in Somalia but said the United Nations would set up a special fund to which member states and private foundations could contribute.

He also expressed the hope that global attention now fixed on Somalia will not lessen the world community's interest in helping other troubled nations like Mozambique, Angola, Cambodia and El Salvador.

Asked how long U.S. troops will be needed for security for delivery of food to Somalia's starving people, Dr. Ghali said he had no idea but envisioned "a long operation which will be done by the United Nations."

He added: "If we are able to achieve the reconciliation there will be no more need for a (military) presence to distribute the food...if you will disarm the gangs and find a channel to the distribution of food, it is finished."



Boutros Ghali

"The distribution of food is related with the presence of those gangs. So when we begin to distribute the food, the gangs will disappear. They will have no reason to exist any more."

Troops authorised to intervene

in Somalia by the United Nations will "proceed with disarmament of (those who are) highly armed at this time," he said.

"The presence of the military forces, which will defuse the tension, the distribution of food and the beginning of an infrastructure which will be provided by food will allow us to promote reconciliation," said Dr. Ghali.

"There is a greater availability of arms than of food in Somalia. There are no gun factories in Somalia and Somalia did not buy these guns. They were given to Somalia by outside interests," he said.

"The outside world must act urgently to curtail the flow of arms to Africa."

Dr. Ghali was attending a meeting on global development cooperation at the Carter Centre.

Mr. Carter Friday told an audience that included U.N. officials, experts on international aid and foundation executives that donors and recipients of interna-

tional aid must become more efficient.

Those offering aid, he said, should "combine what we have to offer in a spirit of teamwork."

He cited the example of agencies working independently for years to try to eradicate polio. "They didn't even know each other," he said.

Working together, he said, they immunised 80 per cent of the world's children in a five-year period, up from the 20 per cent they achieved alone.

Countries receiving aid must determine their needs, Mr. Carter said. "In a country just emerging as a democracy, they don't have the slightest idea what is necessary to give their people a better life."

Using people who live in a country to teach people to help themselves is better than bringing in outside help, Mr. Carter said. "Sending foreigners into a country is expensive and they don't know the culture," he said.

U.S. envoy warns strongly against Somalia intervention

NEW YORK (R) — The U.S. ambassador to Kenya has warned that U.S. troops in Somalia could face heavy casualties, saying "if you liked Beirut, you'll love Mogadishu," U.S. News and World Report magazine said Saturday.

The magazine's Dec. 14 issue printed what it said was a diplomatic cable sent by Ambassador Smith Hempstone to the State Department on Dec. 1, in which Mr. Hempstone gave a deeply pessimistic view of what U.S. troops could accomplish in the starving nation.

"I do not think Somalia is amenable to the quick fix so beloved of Americans," said Mr. Hempstone's note.

"The one 'beneficial' effect a major American intrusion into Somalia is likely to have may be to reunite the Somali nation: against us, the invaders, the outsiders," he said.

He said U.S. officials should not think that Somali gunmen "will remain conveniently on the beaches to be destroyed or disarmed."

"Things will be quiet for a day or two, and then a Somali kid will role a grenade into a cafe frequented by American troops. There will be an abduction or

two. A sniper occasionally will knock off one of your sentries. If you liked Beirut, you'll love Mogadishu," said the note.

President George Bush has ordered U.S. troops to Somalia to block warring clans from intercepting food shipments being sent to ease a famine that has killed more than a quarter million people.

Mr. Hempstone, in the note sent to Under-Secretary of State Frank Wisner, suggested the U.S. public may not fully grasp the perils of getting involved in the Somali conflict.

"The first question that needs to be asked is how long the American public is willing to put up with a major, expensive U.S. presence in Somalia and how large a butcher's bill it is prepared to pay," said Mr. Hempstone's note.

"Somalis, as the Italians and British discovered to their discomfort, are natural-born guerrillas," said the note, referring to the East African country's former colonial rulers.

"They will mine the roads. They will lay ambushes. They will launch hit-and-run attacks...the Somali is treacherous. The Somali is a killer," said Mr. Hempstone's note.

He warned Mr. Wisner to "think once, think twice and three times before you embrace the Somali tarbaby."

Powell: Force enough

The 28,000 U.S. troops ordered to Somalia by President Bush should be enough to secure aid to famine victims in the country, Joint Chief of Staff Chairman Colin Powell said Saturday.

"We have enough forces to do the job, but we shouldn't concentrate so much on the number as we should concentrate on the mission we're trying to accomplish," General Powell said in an interview with CNN's "News-maker Saturday."

"We will put whatever force is required to accomplish the mission we've been assigned," he said. "It could go higher if needed, it could go lower if it turns out that we have made some overestimations."

Gen. Powell said it could take two to three months for U.S. troops to complete its job and turn the relief operation back over to the United Nations.

"I think two to three months is a pretty good estimate," Gen. Powell said. He said it would take about three to four weeks for the U.S. forces to arrive in Somalia

and another month to month and a half to bring the situation under control.

Gen. Powell said the leaders of the warring factions have offered their cooperation to the U.S. effort. The general said the United States has the wherewithal to ensure that cooperation even though there is no desire to add to the level of violence in Somalia.

Factions 'will cooperate'

Leaders of rival Somalia factions said Saturday they will cooperate with the U.S.-led effort to get food to starving people, CBS news reported.

One leader, Mohammed Farah Aided, a military man trained by both the Italians and the Russians, told CBS he felt the American involvement could help the factions unite.

"We believe in the American fairness, loving democracy. And the Americans are working for the unity of the Somali people," he said in an interview in Mogadishu.

Self-declared President Ali Mahdi Mohammad, a wealthy hotel owner in the once-attractive Indian Ocean port city, also said he was ready to cooperate.

Algeria imposes third curfew in four years to curb

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algeria's third curfew in four years was clamped on the capital and six nearby provinces on Sunday, confining people to their homes overnight.

The curfew is part of a crackdown by the army-backed government on Muslim fundamentalists, who want to make Algeria an Islamic state and have been blamed for killing more than 170 members of the security forces in the past 10 months.

Algeria Radio said no incidents had been reported during the curfew which ran from 10:30 p.m. on Saturday to 5 a.m. on Sunday. Reuter correspondents and witnesses in the capital said the only activity overnight appeared to be that of patrolling security forces.

On Sunday, armed riot police manned checkpoints in the city but there was no sign of additional security or deployment of troops who have been moved into barracks in the capital in the past few days.

The curfew is aimed at clearing the night-time streets of Algiers and five surrounding departments, or counties, where about 60 per cent of this country's 26 million people live.

Premier Belaid Abdul Salam announced the curfew a day after Algeria's top union leader escaped an assassination attempt and said it would last until the Islamic bands were annihilated. The need to impose a curfew, however, shows that his military-backed government has failed to stabilise Algeria almost a year after a coup blocked Islamic fundamentalists from winning power in free elections.

The premier claimed that the

crackdown will enable security forces to identify and isolate terrorist bands.

Massive manhunt by special anti-terrorist units, backed up by thousands of militiamen, are expected in the Lakharia gorges south of the capital, where bands of gunmen are holed up. House searches based on information produced from recent arrests should hit the cities, according to the ever-churning Algerian rumour mill.

The anti-terror units have succeeded in recent months in dismantling terror rings in the east and south-west. Authorities say the area around Algiers is the last bastion of the armed fundamentalists.

The curfew, coupled with the dissolution of dozens of local government agencies sympathetic to the fundamentalists, marks the end of a two-month amnesty where Islamic gunmen were invited to turn themselves in exchange for clemency.

About 100 did, but no leaders were among them, according to police. Nine were placed in detention on suspicion of having killed or wounded people.

The amnesty was a carrot offered in conjunction with a stick: secret anti-terrorist courts empowered to impose the death penalty, and a preventive detention law under which at least 1,200 people have been arrested.

However, Tuesday's machine-gun ambush of Abdul Haq Ben Hamouda, head of the powerful general union of Algerian workers, as he was driven through Algiers showed that the gunmen remain undefeated. Mr. Ben Hamouda emerged unscathed.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Most Americans approve Somalia aid

NEW YORK (R) — Two-thirds of Americans support President George Bush's decision to send U.S. troops to Somalia, according to a Newsweek poll, released Saturday. The poll, conducted by Newsweek, showed Americans were evenly divided on whether the United States should expand its role to help restore order and political activity to ensure the delivery of relief supplies or to help restore order and political activity to ensure the delivery of relief supplies or to help restore order and political activity to ensure the delivery of relief supplies.

UAE, Russia hold military talks

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Russia discussed military cooperation Sunday, their first meeting in less than two months. A Russian official said Pave Detskiy, commander of Russia's air force, and UAE capital Abu Dhabi Saturday night for military defence officials. It was not clear whether the talks would lead to any UAE arms purchases from Russia. In October, L. General Vladimir Semenov, head of Russia's land force, talks with UAE Armed Forces Deputy Chief of Staff General Sheikh Mohammad Ben Zayed Al Nahayin.

Kuwait bans male hairdressers for w

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's new social affairs and labour law which is close to the Islamic fundamentalist Salaf movement decreed that men may not work in shops where women, hair cut. Jassim Al Oun, a member of the new cabinet's office in October, had given male hairdressers six months alternative employment, a ministry official said Sunday. The decision after the Ministry of Religious Affairs it was against Islamic law for male hairdressers to touch women who are not close relatives. "It affects very few people, ministry official Abdul Rahman Al Tahawi. "You can't cut a woman's hair," he said. "Hairdressers said most of the men worked in the big hotels and that beauty shops catering for women tended to employ Lebanese or Filipino women newspaper Al-Sayassah said some people saw the beginning of a trend towards imposing fundamentalism through government. It is the first decree inspired by it since the new cabinet took office.

7 killed in Tehran street cave-in

NICOSIA (AP) — At least seven people were killed, unknown number injured when part of a downtown Tehran cave-in into a subway tunnel, the Islamic Republic News (IRNA) reported Sunday. The agency, monitored in the incident occurred during the evening rush-hour when the partially completed tunnel collapsed. "The eastern Imam Khomeini Square opened up suddenly and everything and everyone on the surface," IRNA reported. A taxi carrying six people plunged into the 30-ft pit, which was 10 metres wide, IRNA said. The witness that another car, a motorcycle and several pedestrians fell into the hole. IRNA said an unidentified subway authority blamed heavy rainstorms for the cave-in. The agency quoted saying water had washed away the earth from under a high pillar supporting the tunnel's ceiling. He said that near canals under the square could also have been a factor reported. Tehran's metro system has been under construction about 28 years.

Black Sea states discuss economic

ISTANBUL (R) — Eminent Black Sea nations, keen to be into an economic group formed six months ago, began meeting in Turkey Sunday. Discussions among private, men and officials will occupy the first four days before ministers meet on Thursday in the southern Mediterranean of Antalya, Turkey, due to hand over the chairmanship of Black Sea Economic Cooperation Group, says the group's made rapid progress so far despite its disparate member European Community member Greece and its traditional Turkey have teamed up with nine former member communist bloc — Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Albania, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia. "The most important aspect of our cooperation is its flexibility. This pragmatic was adopted due to the political and economic transition nations," Turkish Foreign Ministry official Oktay Ozay said. "Black Sea economic cooperation is not just a challenging other models of economic cooperation," he said. "There are efforts to form unions of Black Sea capital municipalities, parliaments, universities, geologists, even of Black Sea cardiologists," Mr. Ozay said last week. Ministers are due to endorse proposals on private sector, data exchange, and trade and industry prepared by groups since the organisation's July 25 launch. Mr. Ozay said some Central European countries were keen to join the observers, but he did not name them.

Kuwaiti says arms cache was for Bos

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti man who had an arsenal of including mortars and machineguns told police he was planning to send them to Bosnia Muslims, the Interior Ministry said. The man — an army lieutenant — was still being questioned with a Kuwaiti colleague to check if his story was true, a spokesman said. Police said Wednesday they had found a container machineguns, grenades, mortars, automatic rifles, guns, chasers, ammunition and at least one anti-aircraft gun in Sal kilometers west of Kuwait City. More arms and explosives hidden underground in a sheep pen in Sulabiya and other pickup truck and in two houses elsewhere in the city. Most weapons were of Soviet design.

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هكذا من الأصل

Home News

Jordan not satisfied with outcome of peace talks, says minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information Mahmoud Sharif Sunday said that Jordan was not satisfied with the outcome of the year of Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Although we did not expect solutions, the first year without any concrete or real results, said the minister, was a disappointment.

date, we did not negotiate the Israeli on points listed as joint Jordanian-Israeli talks, he noted. Jordan, he has had reservations on part agenda and for this reason Jordanian delegation will discuss the agenda again with the delegation during the coming round of talks starting next Monday.

Assessing that Jordan wanted peace, the minister said that the Kingdom remains committed to U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, which call for a settlement that can ensure a just, durable and comprehensive peace.

referring to the state of the region at present the minister called for efforts to be



Minister of Information Mahmoud Sharif speaks to a U.S. delegation about the peace talks (Petra photo)

exerted at all levels to persuade Israel to opt for peace with the Arabs. He said Israel can not live in isolation relying only on its military power and cannot go on subjecting the Palestinians to tragedies and sufferings by denying them their legitimate rights.

Paying tribute to the United States for its role as a superpower in initiating the peace process, the minister said that Washington enjoys the confidence of the

Israeli and Arab sides alike and they look to it as an influential political and economic power able to ensure peace that would be acceptable to the two sides to the conflict.

For their part, delegation members said they were impressed by the democratic process in Jordan, being the first such initiative in the region, and supported Jordan's commitment to guaranteeing public freedoms and human rights in the country.

Libya voices support for King's call on Arab unity

AMMAN (Petra) — A Libyan envoy who ended a two day visit to Jordan Sunday said that he agreed with Jordanian ministers on activating Jordanian-Libyan joint technical committees to boost bilateral cooperation.

Libya's foreign minister Jumaa Farrani said in talks with Jordanian Foreign Minister Kameel Abu Jaber and Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour that an agreement was reached on setting up technical committees in Tripoli and Amman.

The message to the King voiced the Libyan leader's full support for King Hussein's call on unity among Arabs in the face of common challenges and in a bid to end the crisis facing the Arab nation, said Mr. Farrani in his pre-departure statement.

Libya supports Jordan's calls on the Arab nation to build a strong demographic and economic foundation for the Arab



Libyan Foreign Minister Jumaa Farrani (right) with Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Jamal Kreisha upon his departure from Amman Sunday (Petra photo)

world, the envoy added. Mr. Farrani said Libya places its potentials at Jordan's disposal so that the Kingdom can work out a practical programme for the implementation of this initiative.

He said that Libya was willing and ready to bolster Jordanian-Libyan relations in all fields, noting that Tripoli has deep confidence in the Kingdom working under the wise leadership of King Hussein to find a new Arab order or a federation of Arab states or a United Arab nation.

The Libyan envoy was refer-

ring to the King's recent call in a nation wide address on the Arab world to forge unity and end divisions among Arab countries. "We have felt from the Jordanian King, government and people all support for the Libyan people in the crisis with the western nations over the Lockerbie affair," said Mr. Farrani. He added that his talks with Dr. Abu Jaber covered all aspects of this issue and Jordan has voiced support for Libya's positive initiatives in the Lockerbie affair in line with the U.N. Charter.

Cabinet discusses international trade

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Supply Mohammad Saqqaf left for Tunis Sunday at the head of an official delegation to discuss means of increasing the volume of exchanged trade between the two countries.

In a statement before his departure, the minister said during his visit he plans to hold talks with government ministers on trade and means of bolstering economic ties.

The visit to Tunis was planned by the Cabinet at a session held Saturday evening. Dr. Mahdi Farhan, director general of the Jordanian Investments Corporation (JIC) is also expected to attend a meeting by the European Community (EC) and European investment organisations.

The meeting, to be held next week, in the Italian city of Bari aims at promoting cooperation between the EC and developing countries in industrialisation and the transfer of modern technology.

As well as attending the meeting, Dr. Farhan will make a tour of tomato paste processing plants and other food industries with a team from Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Com-

pany to learn new ideas.

According to a Cabinet statement, Jordan will take part in a meeting by the Arab League Agricultural Development Organisation in Damascus on Jan. 16 to discuss pan-Arab plans for promoting agricultural development. The Jordanian delegation to the two-day meeting, the statement noted, will be led by Agriculture Minister Fayez Khasawneh.

The statement also said that the council has set up Jordan's team to a meeting, grouping representatives from Arab countries and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). The meeting, which will also be attended by delegates from Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Palestine and the Arab League is to discuss education in the occupied Arab lands and Israel's repeated attempts to influence the Palestinian educational process. The statement said that the meeting to be held in Cairo, will take place between Dec. 14 and 20 and that the Jordanian team will be led by Ihsan Bustami, director of Studies and Research Programmes at the foreign ministry's Department for the Palestinian Affairs.

ess is wrong on sales tax, finance ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — The finance ministry Sunday denied that additional taxes will result in the light of expected Parliament's endorsement of a draft law on the tax or Value Added Tax.

A source at the ministry said number of local daily newspapers had published articles to effect that the new sales tax has been referred to the House for consideration. The provisions for increasing amount of tax on certain commodities, insurance, sums and other items, the finance ministry asserts

that all that has been published about such increases in the additional tax as included in the draft amendment is totally groundless and has no truth in it.

"The draft amendment to the law does not contain any increases in taxes over those taxes provided for in the original law and in regulations and Council of Ministers decisions relevant to that law," said a statement from the finance ministry.

It noted that the aim of this draft amendment is to incorporate all existing regulations into a common law.

ty's publication banned

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arabic newspaper 'Al Ahsan' Sunday pro- over the confiscation of its number 103 Saturday Dec. 5, stating that the measure was unjustified.

Publication is printed by Jordan Democratic Party which submitted request for official recognition in October and is still awaiting approval.

Statement from the editor-in-chief Nimri faxed to the press in Amman said that

the Press and Publications Department's reasons for the confiscation do not justify the ban because the published material is regarded as a journalistic service and analysis that is void of any slander or libel against any body or circle as charged by the department.

We regret the decision and urge all those keen on maintaining free expression and journalism in our country to continue to do so, said the editor.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Sculpture exhibition by Mona Saudi at Al Balqa Art Gallery in Al Fuhels.

Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Turki Abdul Amir at the Alia Art Gallery.

Exhibition of paintings and silkscreens by three artists from Gaza: Fayez Al Hassani, Kamel Al Mughanni and Laila Shawwa at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.).

Art exhibition by artist Ghassan Abu Laban at Phoenix Art Gallery.

Sculpture exhibition by artist Ahmad Saad Mohalati at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Exhibition by Iraqi artist Shaker Hassan Al Saeed at the Jordan Gallery of Fine Arts.

Exhibition of ceramics by Iraqi artist Nehaya Khalaf at Baladna Art Gallery.

The third Al Amal bazaar at the International Jerusalem Hotel, open from 10 a.m. till 10 p.m.

Lecture entitled "Protection of the Cultural Heritage in Jordan: Proposals for a comprehensive legislative approach," by Dr. Gastano Palumbo at the Friends of Archaeology Centre — 7 p.m.

French film entitled "Les Visiteurs du Soir," at the French Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.

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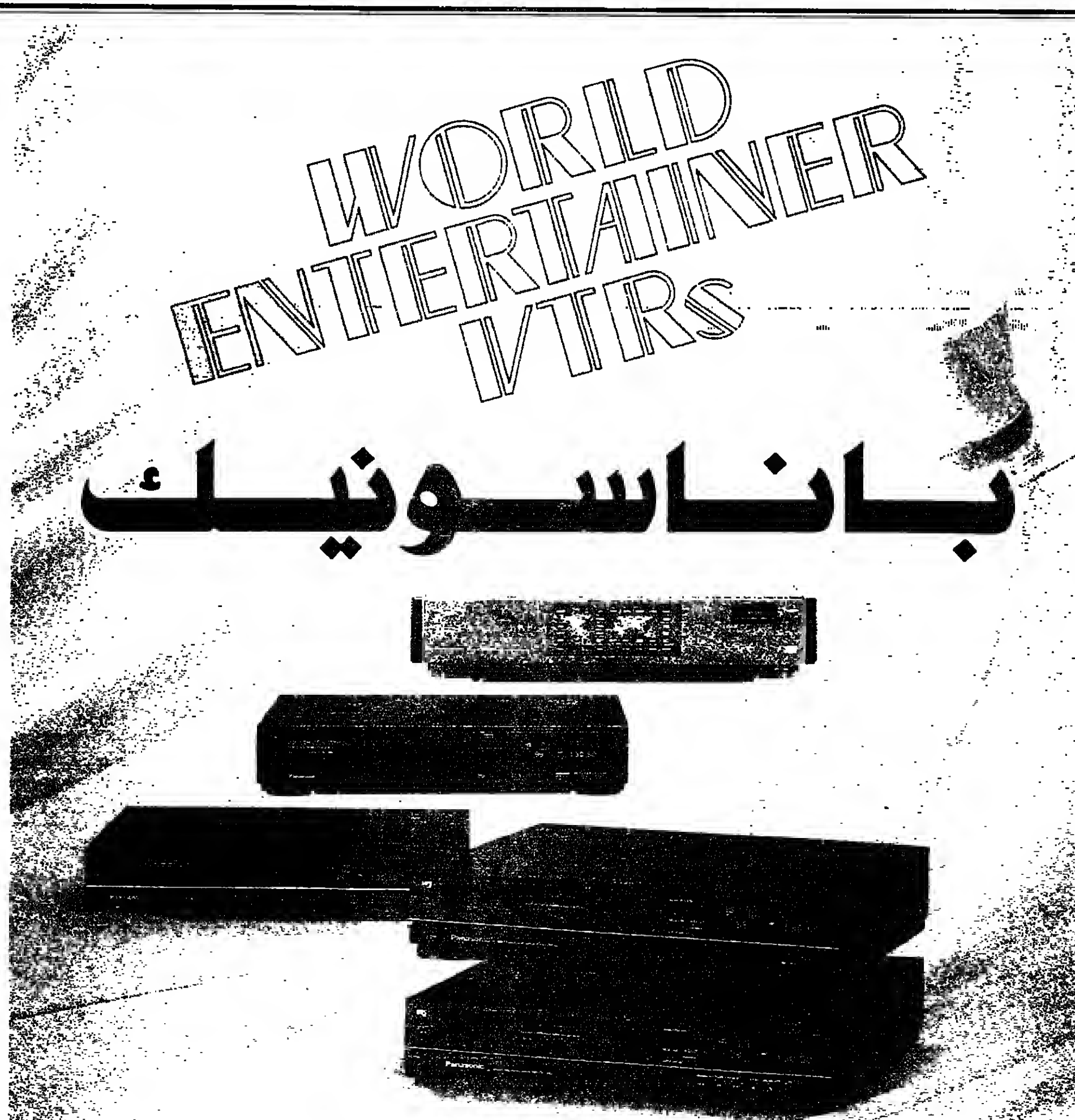
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Weekly Political Pulse

Private schools' legitimate complaints

THERE IS a growing consensus amongst parents in Jordan that the best quality education, in both the primary and secondary phases, can be offered by those schools which either are not rigidly bound by the constraints of the Ministry of Education's regulations or are bold enough to challenge these regulations by offering an extra dimension to the school curriculum. Such schools have realised that the government constraints are stifling the creativity that some foreign schools are promoting.

If only government bureaucracy were lifted off the backs of the other Jordanian private schools, many concerned educators and parents say, things would be much better at the rest of the private schooling system in the Kingdom. Others would hasten to comment that it would be unfair to lump all Jordanian private schools together and treat them equally since some are admittedly below standard and therefore require closer examination and control.

Some voices, supportive of governmental interference in the Jordanian private educational sector, rebut the charges against central government's involvement in the conduct and curriculum of the private institutes of education on the premise that many Jordanians would not have it any other way and often call for closer governmental scrutiny of the proliferating non-governmental schools.

Still, whatever the pros and cons on the issue of allowing the government to literally run the private schools, there is clearly a crisis of education in the country because of the legitimate issue of where to draw the line and distinguish between reasonable and unreasonable governmental interference. This subject touches the heart of the matter when it comes to the policy often enunciated and most recently brought into focus by His Majesty King Hussein when he called for the development and promotion of a contemporary system of education that is suitable to the new era of democracy. Without a sound educational policy applied during the early, formative years of our children, there is not going to be much hope for Jordanian democracy to deepen its roots and consolidate its gains. As is, the educational criteria as applied by the government and imposed on all schools, other than the outstanding American and Baccalaureate schools, are anything but satisfactory or in line with the King's recommendation for brighter and more enlightened school years for the students of Jordan.

As a matter of fact, one glance at the text books forced on all schools of the country would readily reveal that they are simply not up to standard. Many are archaic, old fashioned, unimaginative and have nothing to do with contemporary tools for quality education. This is one area where Jordanian private schools have a legitimate cause for complaint against the government's insistence that text books selected by its bureaucracy be uniformly used, without a question being asked by any schools other than the two aforementioned lucky schools.

Yet many Jordanian parents choose to send their children to these private schools and pay for it dearly (and saving the government a lot in the process), and expect a different educational methodology than the one being religiously applied in the public school system. After all, they are sending their children to the private schools in order to avoid the tools of education offered at the public schools. What they are discovering now is that their children at these private schools are being forced to follow rather blindly the public schools' educational ways, literally, to the last detail. Many are asking why bother send their children to these schools when they are for all intents and purposes public schools funded by middle class Jordanians.

The government is 100 per cent right when it formulates and applies a national curriculum for the country. But it is 100 per cent wrong in telling all the private schools of the country to follow blindly in its footsteps on the choice of text books, exam periods, school breaks and the breakdown of the curriculum. Since the public educators admittedly have no monopoly on a sound educational policy, would it not be more fair to let the private sector introduce positive innovations to educational practices, including the choice of books, exam periods, vacation times and choice of style of education? When the Ministry of Education prescribes to the private schools when and how to conduct an exam and orders that even at the tender age of eight students must take exams almost every other day, then governmental interference in private schools becomes arbitrary and reaches ridiculous proportions.

When a four or five-year-old student is using a text book that tells her or him that the city of Accre in Palestine was lost due to the treachery of the Zionist armed forces, are we not avoiding telling our youngsters the whole truth so that they become able to

cope with it when they are in responsible places up adulthood? And when there are in the world new tools to teach sciences or mathematics or English language or what gives the government the right to weed out such tools of education, especially when many Jordanians are willing to foot the bill for their introduction?

Why should the mid-term exams be ordered to be immediately before and after the Christmas holiday, with no academic reason to shove this ruling down the Jordanians, especially those whose faith requires the brate this time of the year unimpeded by the mid-term finals immediately after the holidays? Why private schools of Jordan agree on new and more dates to conduct their exams according to their own judgement, as long as they meet the requirements of curriculum and must score a certain minimum stand final national exams, especially the Tawjihi? Why Higher Council of Education in the country tole breathing space for our private schools as long as they live up to certain minimum educational standards? If so would like to excel and expand on this minimum stands every justification to let them do so.

This chronic conflict between public and private schools in the country requires a review. The issue calls for it by the highest authorities in the country in a bid to breathe refreshing life into our archaic school policy. Perhaps educational commission can be created for this purpose and overhaul the national educational policy from top.

This is the only effective way to sift the legitimate being leveled against the government from the non ones. As is, there is a crisis in education in the resolution of which requires the intervention of enlightened among us. His Majesty King Hussein has and clear on the need to improve our education system cope better with the advent of multi-party democracy. Highness Crown Prince Hassan has spearheaded deavours to introduce more enlightened approach ermental actions and practices. What more press intervene on its behalf than the cause of education th out for such intervention?

Big brother politics

JORDANIANS CANNOT be blamed for whimpering every time they feel their democratic march is threatened by individuals, institutions or the application of some law. People have for too long yearned for political freedom and the right to participate in public life that any threat of a set back or a return to the pre-democratic era sends waves of fear through society. The latest controversy regarding the Ministry of Interior's decision to deny registration for two political parties — the Communist and the Arab Baath Socialist parties — on grounds that they violate both the Constitution and the law is an example. While we do not exonerate the minister of interior over his decision to bar the two parties, we do not see him violating either the Constitution or the National Charter. While the National Charter is only morally binding, the Constitution and the Political Parties Law are both open for interpretation. And that is where the fault lies. No one should blame the minister of interior and his lieutenants for interpreting the law the way they understand it. Only a proper court of law, in this case, and according to the law itself, the High Court of Justice can pass a proper judgement on the issue.

Jordanian politicians and writers should not feel betrayed then, since the minister's decision provides the country the first opportunity to test its judicial system. Every attempt to test the judiciary — notwithstanding the Shabab Al Nafeer Al Islami trial by the military court — has so far been foiled. The denial of the registration of both parties thus provides an occasion by which the higher court would examine both the Political Parties Law itself and its place within the Constitution. This is in fact where politicians and political writers failed in the first place. The major flaw in the Political Parties Law right from the outset is its undemocratic nature. Democracy, by definition, presumes people's participation in political life through direct involvement in the formulation of political parties and platforms and their control over these organisations. What the Political Parties Law did in fact, in essence what politicians and parliamentarians did in the first place when they sanctioned the law, is to confiscate these basic rights and place them in the hands of the minister of interior, a legalised version of big brother politics. Therefore it is unlawful that politicians and political activists should now cry wolf over the minister of interior's decision.

The fault is not in the application of the law rather in the law itself. In the first place political parties should be sanctioned by the people who form them and not by the government. Perhaps this is the most important lesson that we should conclude from the present episode. Accordingly the whole political and democratisation process needs to be assessed and reviewed. Political reforms need to be both genuine, progressive and bold. State control over peoples' political activity should be minimised and only limited to state security alone. In the new era citizens not ministers should become the guardians of democracy.

U.N. action in Somalia and Bosnia — why so different?

By Nicholas Doughty
Reuter

BRUSSELS — The United Nations has authorised troops to fight so aid can get through in Somalia, but has held back from doing the same in former Yugoslavia — and the question being asked is: "Why the difference?"

Analysts and diplomats say the answers point up moral and political "fault lines" in the post-cold war world and present the United Nations with worrying dilemmas about when and where it should intervene to save lives.

"The operation in Somalia is a quantum leap in terms of acting to help people and it is absolutely necessary in a moral sense, but that is also true of Bosnia," said Jonathan Eyal of the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) in London.

"The simple answer is that the West, particularly the Americans, are prepared to intervene in one place but not the other. The U.N. is just the legal figleaf, the last resort, that governments need to launch such operations when it suits them."

Paul Beaver of Jane's Defence Weekly agreed.

"The way these two crises are being handled raises very serious questions and doubts about the way the United Nations acts," he told Reuters.

Diplomats say the hard realities of international politics have prevailed — namely that it will be relatively easy for U.S. and other forces to defeat poorly-armed bandits in Somalia if they need to fight.

The villages, hills and woods of Bosnia, with ethnic hatred burning fiercely, would be a much tougher nut to crack. Western governments are worried they could be sucked into a quagmire.

French President Francois Mitterrand acknowledged that such military factors were the main reason that a similar operation to the one planned for Somalia could not be mounted in Bosnia. "We are also responsible for the lives and security of our own soldiers," he has told reporters.

But smoke diplomats, and even the occasional government minister, say that claims to set up a moral "new world order" will sound hollow if decisions on intervention are based only on cold, practical calculations.

"It's apparently much easier for the United Nations to go into Somalia than it is for it to intervene in a decisive way in former Yugoslavia," said French Humanitarian Affairs Minister Bernard Kouchner. "I think we should also stop the massacre in former Yugoslavia."

Former U.S. President Ronald Reagan expressed similar views.

"Our multilateral organisations must declare ethnic cleansing and the slaughter of civilians by military forces unacceptable. And we must be prepared to put weapons behind our words," he said during a recent visit to Britain.

Although there are troops escorting humanitarian aid convoys under a U.N. flag in Bosnia,

they are allowed to fire only in self-defence. A "no fly zone" imposed by the world body over Bosnia has been widely flouted.

There have been repeated warnings that tens of thousands could die in former Yugoslavia this winter. More than 300,000 Somalis have died as a result of civil war and famine in the last two years. Millions more face starvation.

RUSI's Mr. Eyal and some diplomats said there was an interesting parallel between the Somalia operation and the build-up to the 1991 Gulf war against Iraq.

"In both cases, it was the Americans who went to the U.N. and built the support for something they wanted to do," he said.

However, Washington did agree, under pressure from some countries at the U.N., to involve the world body more closely in the command of the Somalia operation. The Gulf war was conducted entirely under U.S. command.

In contrast, Muslim states have had little success in pressing for U.N. military backing for the beleaguered Muslim population of Bosnia.

Mr. Eyal and others said the United Nations needed its own



In a changed world, China has to get the democratic message

By Andrew B. Brick

tions with the United States and European and Asian countries. Only 29 states officially recognise Taiwan.

Still despite repeated diplomatic setbacks this island controls \$86 billion in foreign currency reserves, commands a global economic presence far greater than its size and is rapidly becoming the first case of institutionalised democracy in Chinese history. Democratic change on Taiwan, no less than political repression on the mainland, has altered the area to which American policy toward China must operate.

Taiwan is the model for all of China.

The engine of change is a commercially borderless and increasingly influential Greater China. It is an amalgam of economies that stretches from southern and coastal China, Taiwan and Hong Kong to diverse focal points of the Chinese diaspora around the Pacific Rim. Chinese businesses are now astonishingly free of control by political authorities.

Factories in Guangdong Province operate through the night to manufacture goods

that will go on sale in Hong Kong the next day. The engine of change is a commercially borderless and increasingly influential Greater China. It is an amalgam of economies that stretches from southern and coastal China, Taiwan and Hong Kong to diverse focal points of the Chinese diaspora around the Pacific Rim. Chinese businesses are now astonishingly free of control by political authorities.

The dispatch by Mr. senior officials to Taipei should be too. The new deal will may conceivably be this watch. He would to keep straight the character of the country and political tracks, pursue them with equal forcefulness.

As a country moves economic ladder, political almost always. The prosperous, the educated and the well-off. For the United States, fore, seeding and call the burgeoning Chinese marketplace is a win-win. Not for the first time businessman promises to agent of America's interest.

The writer, senior analyst Asian affairs at the Heritage Foundation, contributed comment to the *Los Angeles Herald Tribune*.



ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Sunday urged Iran to free itself from the shackles of alignment behind the United States and its colonial allies as far as Iraq is concerned and to open its doors for the Iraqi people instead of remaining involved in the process of starving them. We are well aware that Iran supported the U.S. in its aggression on Iraq, that Tehran harbours evil intentions against the Arabs and that its forces continue to occupy Arab islands, said the paper. But we can not but side with Iran, which is an Islamic Nation, in the face of U.S. conspiracies being hatched against it and with the help of certain Islamic nations, the paper continued. We call on Iran to free itself from the unholy alliance against Iraq and to abandon the claim that it is providing protection to the world Muslims as we hope that the Tehran regime will end its collusion against the Islamic people of Iraq, the paper said. In the face of the ongoing conspiracies hatched by the United States and its allies against Iran, we can not but side with the Islamic Nation; and although we condemn Iran's attempts to impose hegemony on the Arabs and harm their interests, we can only express support for the Iranian nation against foreign aggression, the paper added.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily expressed belief that the Higher Court of Justice will reverse a decision by the Interior Ministry which denied the Arab Baath Socialist Party and the Communist Party the chance for legal recognition. Tareq Masarweh said that it is difficult for the interior minister to find people defend his decision to reject the two parties' request for formal recognition; and it seems that the Ministry of Interior was trying to find justifications for its decision. If, as the ministry says, the Political Parties Law does not allow these two parties to become legal, then in our belief this law contradicts the Jordanian Constitution, said the writer. He said that the two parties should be given the chance, like other parties, and it is more likely that these two parties will dedicate their efforts to helping, rather than impeding democracy in the country; should they act otherwise, and should they behave in a subversive manner, they would both lose their credibility before the people and will be subject to prosecution, in accordance with the same Political Parties Law. As long as these two parties are committed to democracy and respect Jordanian laws, there can be no justifications for denying them licences, the writer added.

Somalia

(Continued from page 1)

Defence Minister Pierre Joxe said in Paris.

Mogadishu's port was closed on Nov. 11 amid clan disputes and rampant looting, and about 12,000 tonnes of wheat, rice and sorghum have yet to be distributed. The last attempt to open the port, on Nov. 25, failed when a U.N. chartered ship was shelled as it entered the harbour.

Aid agencies estimate at least half the food donated to Somalia so far has been stolen.

On Friday armed men attacked a Care worker and stole \$20,000 in cash. On Saturday there were reports of shootings in Baidoa, 200 kilometres northwest of Mogadishu, by gunmen in "technicals", the heavily-armed battle wagons of the Somali conflict.

In Mogadishu, the wing of the United Somali Congress (USC) of warlord Mohammad Farah Aided sought to play down speculation that gunmen might attack the U.S.-led force when it lands.

USC Vice-Chairman Abdi Osman Farah told a news conference his group wanted talks with the U.S. about its plans and said its militia would behave in a disciplined way.

Features

Iraqi artist immortalises bedouin life

By Stephanie Genkin
and
Curt Ryan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After walking through the hustle and bustle of Amman's modern, urban streets, entering the Alia Art Gallery is a passage into the pastoral and desert environment of southern Jordan and Iraq. The collection of paintings featured at the current exhibition by Iraqi artist Turki Abd Al Amir focuses on the people, animals, and landscapes of traditional Arab life.

In contrast to the artists who have exhibited their work in Amman recently, Mr. Amir's work is more towards realism than abstraction. The artist, however, does not belong entirely to the school of realism; rather, his work demonstrates a versatility of style, varying in its degree of realism from painting to painting. The works portraying bedouin life, for instance, include all shadow-like depictions of women carrying straw baskets on their heads, or well-defined features of bedouin horsemen. Rarely does a collection of work by a single artist reflect such diversity.

Mr. Amir also has a keen eye for contrast. This is especially evident in his penchant for chiaroscuro, the juxtaposition of light and dark. In addition, the artist experiments with static and dynamic images.

The theme of contrast is highlighted by two paintings of bedouin encampments, placed opposite one another in the gallery, illustrating the same setting at two distinct times of the day: dawn and dusk. These works feature slightly hazy figures painted in dim colours, surrounding a bright glowing fire, with grey smoke billowing upwards. The illuminating flecks of yellow and orange immediately draw the eye to the centre of the painting, in such a way that the viewer instantly feels part of the bedouin camp. The effect so convincing that one can almost smell the aroma of the cardamom-laced coffee simmering on the fire.

Another pair of paintings, situated side by side, emphasises the contrast between two bedouins on horseback, one of motion and the other still. In the painting of the rapidly approaching rider, Mr. Amir places special emphasis on the background which is as dynamic as the subject itself. Both are represented through broad lively splashes of colour, almost indistinguishable at close range. In the second painting, the rider is at a standstill, upright and proud. Unlike its counterpart, the background is serene and of secondary importance; all concentration is placed on the bedouin and his horse. The first captures the drama of bedouin life, the second conveys its dignity.

In a series on horses, Mr. Amir shows similar attention to detail

and form. Like many other artists, he finds the horse to be an ideal subject for the study of muscle tone and contour. The horse is particularly well-suited to the exhibition, given the importance of the Arabian stallion to traditional culture.

Mr. Amir has not neglected the role of women in nomadic society. His exhibition includes several unusual portraits of bedouin women, each constituting a departure from traditional stereotypes which portray them as submissive and rarely more than supporting figures. Instead, these women exude power and seduction. Their gaze is direct, forceful and alluring. Veils are often transparent, leaving the faces exposed to full view. Without any suggestion of movement, the artist nonetheless captures the dramatic spirit of these women.

Taken together, the exhibition's works highlight the possibility for diversity of subject and style within a single genre.

Even after returning to the busy streets of Amman, Mr. Amir's images of desert life will continue to linger in the mind for some time to come.

The exhibition at the Alia Art Gallery will remain open until Dec. 10.



Bedouin camp — oil on canvas by Iraqi artist Turki Abd Al Amir on display at Alia Art Gallery

Brothers, 'Unionists' slam U.S.

(Continued from page 1)

"The Arab League must move day with the biggest force possible to provide food for the Somali people and replace the foreign forces which arrived in Somalia before the U.S. Security Council approved it," it said.

Aisha Al Rasam, a member of the central committee of the liberal Unionist group — as yet a registered political party — said the faction was "not against humanitarian relief efforts in Somalia, but opposes the threat at the Americans pose by seeking to control the Bab Al Mandeb" — the entrance to the Red Sea.

The group, which Ms. Rasam said is led by Dr. Anis Muasher, "resists the role played by the U.N. in limiting the American objectives," Rasam did not explain why the group waited until the American move to issue any statement on the crisis despite widespread reports of military, starvation and death in the country for months.

"In almost identical language, the otherhood statement said: 'If the U.S. had entered the Gulf war under pretext of international legitimacy protecting the weak from the strong, it now justifies its entry to Somalia under the pretext of humanitarian objectives and international self and saving the country from ruin and deprivation.'"

"The Arab and Islamic nations could solve the problems of Arab Somalia by unifying its warring factions, protecting the country from feeding its hungry," it said.

"We call on all warring Somali factions to settle their differences and unite in the face of the American invasion and military occupation of their country at a time when all people are looking forward to liberty

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McEnroe, Sampras stage big comeback

U.S. leads 2-1 in Davis Cup

FORT WORTH (R) — Pete Sampras and John McEnroe clawed back from two sets down to win a five-set nail-biter from Switzerland's Jakob Hlasek and Marc Rosset in doubles and give the United States a 2-1 lead in the Davis Cup final Saturday.

After the United States narrowly took the third set to avoid a devastating defeat, Sampras raised his game several levels to spearhead a remarkable comeback in the 6-7, 6-7, 5-6, 6-2 thriller that took four hours and 17 minutes to complete.

The United States is now one victory away from winning the Davis Cup for the 30th time and second time in three years.

Hlasek will have to return to the indoor hardcourt against world number one Jim Courier for Sunday's first reverse singles to try to keep the dream of Switzerland's first Davis Cup alive.

The final match Sunday will pit Rosset against Wimbledon champion Andre Agassi.

"The last two sets were the best doubles I've ever played," said the overjoyed Sampras, who was rock solid from the service line and began cracking forehead winners in the fourth set to energize

McEnroe and take the Swiss duo out of the battle.

"This was a huge match. Hopefully this is a stepping stone and I can get the Lyon nightmare out of my head," he said, referring to his demoralizing Davis Cup debut last year when he dropped two singles matches to France as the United States lost the final.

Inability by the Americans to convert break points and clutch play on the big points by the Swiss cost McEnroe and Sampras the first two sets.

The U.S. duo, playing together for only the second time, avoided a straight sets loss by breaking Rosset's big serve in the final game of the third set and Sampras said the emotion of the U.S. team during the 10-minute break was phenomenal.

"The moment was unbelievable. McEnroe was raving and ranting. He was pumped, I was pumped and you know it's not very often that I get emotional."

McEnroe, 33, who may be playing his last Davis Cup in what has been a brilliant career in the international competition, will be part of his fifth cup-winning team if Courier or Agassi come through Sunday.

"If he goes out he'll go out in



Pete Sampras

style," Sampras said of McEnroe, who ended the match by holding serve at love with his fifth ace.

A dejected Hlasek said: "We ran out of steam, our strength left us."

McEnroe, who passed up the post-match interview to avoid questions about his marital problems, told captain Tom Gorman he thought Rosset appeared tired in the late stages.



John McEnroe

Rosset had spent nearly four and a half hours bearing Courier in five sets Friday night.

McEnroe, who is now 18-2 in Davis Cup doubles, also said the crowd really got into it and helped the Americans. Event promoters had distributed 3,000 American flags in an attempt to neutralize the extremely boisterous Swiss contingent.

Norwich sound championship challenge

LONDON (R) — Norwich, dismissed by the big-city clubs as the unfashionable country cousins of English soccer, are finally making the rest of the Premier League take them seriously as title contenders.

In a season in which none of the major clubs have shown any sign of making a strong challenge for the championship, Norwich have stayed among the pacesetters and Saturday pulled significantly clear at the top.

Showing the resilience needed by any team aiming to win the title, Norwich came back from a goal down at home to spoilsports Wimbledon to snatch a last-minute victory while their closest challengers lost.

With second and third-placed Blackburn and Arsenal both going down to weak opposition, Norwich moved eight points clear at the top, the bookmakers slashed their odds and manager Ian Walker began talking of championship aspirations.

Mark Robins, the striker bought from Manchester United in the close season, showed he aptly fits Walker's description when he started the Norwich revival with his 12th goal of the season.

And Dave Phillips grabbed his seventh to propel the club from the midst of the east Anglian farming community to their fourth consecutive win.

EUROPEAN SOCCER

Many pundits and critics had predicted Norwich, whose highest league finish was fourth in 1989, would fade after losing 7-1 to Blackburn and 4-1 at Liverpool in successive away trips in October.

But they have bounced back from those setbacks and a subsequent League Cup defeat at their title odds and backed by their status as highest-scoring club in the league, have firmly shown

they possess the potential to upset the odds.

Those odds, a generous 20-1 two weeks ago, were slashed to 5-1 by bookmakers after Blackburn — who have won just once in their last seven games — lost 3-2 at Middlesbrough and Arsenal slumped to their third successive defeat, 2-0 at Southampton.

Only Aston Villa and Chelsea among the challengers kept pace.

Chelsea registered their sixth win in their last seven games with a 2-1 win at London neighbours Tottenham to strengthen their surging challenge and fill fourth place, with the same points as Blackburn and Villa.

On a day of upsets, ailing Nottingham Forest showed signs that the sleeping giant may be waking with a 4-1 destruction of champions Leeds United.

Following on from their midweek League Cup win over Tottenham, Forest scored their first away league win of the season and only their third in all.

They remain anchored to the bottom a point behind Crystal Palace, who won at home for the first time, but with Neil Webb laying on two goals in his second game since returning to the club from Manchester United, Forest's prospects of a revival look favourable.



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GOREN BRIDGE

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BATTLE OF THE TITANS

North-South vulnerable. East

North: 10 8 7 5 2
South: 4 9 8 2
East: K 9
West: A 10

WEST: A 3
EAST: Q 9 4
WEST: 7 5
EAST: K 4
WEST: A Q J 10 8 2
EAST: 7 6 5 3
WEST: Q 8 5
EAST: 7 4 3

SOUTH: K J 6
WEST: Q 10 8 6
WEST: K J 9 6 2

The bidding:
East: South: West: North:
Pass: Pass: 1 NT: Pass:
Pass: 2: 3: 4:
Pass: 4: Pass: Pass:

Opening lead: Ace of ♠
Over the past decade, the most successful pair in the U.S. has been Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell. Of late, Tony Forrester and Andy Robson have been recognized as one of Europe's great combinations. These four players locked horns when Great Britain met the U.S. in a qualifying round of the World Team Olympiad in Yokohama, Ja-

pan, last year.

Robson elected to open the West hand with a weak no trump. Judging by North's cue-bid of four diamonds, South's balancing bid of two clubs must have shown a two-suiter, and a highly optimistic four-heart contract was reached.

West led the ace of diamonds and continued the suit. Meckstroth discarded a spade from hand on the king of diamonds and immediately led a spade to the jack and ace.

West returned a spade to declarer's king. The ace and king of clubs were cashed and a club ruff set up two long cards in the suit. Judging accurately from West's jump to three diamonds that the defender's distribution was 2-2-6-3, and that the king of hearts was on his right, since West had already shown up with 10 points and was known to have additional values in diamonds, declarer simply cashed the ace of hearts and continued with a trump.

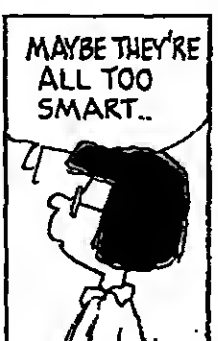
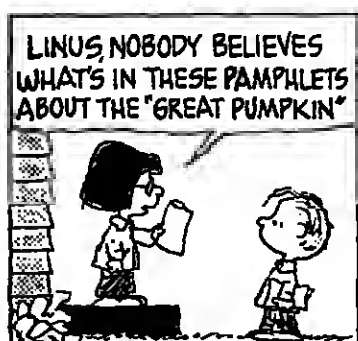
Whether East played the jack or the king, declarer could lose no more than one trump trick to go with the spade and diamond losers.

Needless to say, no other North-South pair came close to bidding and making a game.

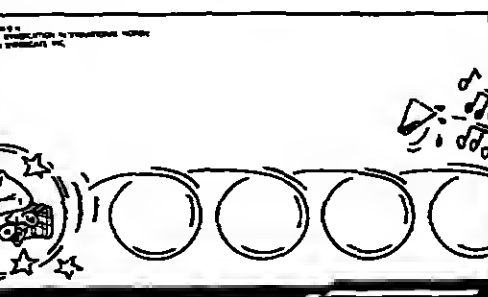
INVITATION

The Department of Antiquities of Jordan in cooperation with the Friends of Archaeology Society, cordially invite those who are concerned with and interested in Islamic art and culture, to attend a lecture in Arabic entitled "Islamic illustrated manuscripts (Baghdad School)" with emphasis on Maqamat Al Hariri by Yahya Al Wasiti "by Mrs. Nahida Nueima Iraqi Department of Antiquities and Heritage — On Tuesday Dec. 8 1992 at 6 p.m., at the Friends of Archaeology Centre, Jabal Amman — Fourth Circle — close to Salah Al Dein Mosque. For more information call Tel: 696582

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



NBA ROUNDUP

By The Associated Press

DOMINIQUE WILKINS scored a season high 44 points and Mookie Blaylock had a career high 17 assists, leading Atlanta to a 113-105 win over San Antonio.

Bill Laimbeer had 10 points and pulled down his 10,000 NBA rebound as Detroit beat Philadelphia 112-88.

It was the seventh straight defeat for the Sixers and the Pistons' third straight victory.

Isiah Thomas scored 25 points for Detroit and Joe Dumars added 23. Armon Gilliam led the Sixers with 17 points.

Michael Jordan scored 10 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter, lifting Chicago to a 96-89 win over Boston.

In Dallas Akeem Olajuwon scored 14 of his 26 points in the second quarter and Houston went on to hand Dallas its ninth consecutive defeat 117-96.

Meanwhile Karl Malone scored 30 points and Tyrone Corbin 22 as Utah routed past Denver, 119-29 for its fourth straight victory.

In Oakland Chris Mullin scored 31 points, eight in the final period to help protect a fourth-quarter lead, as the Golden State Warriors beat the Orlando Magic 110-104.

It was just the Warriors' second home win in seven games. They had failed to protect fourth-quarter leads in all five of their home losses.

In another match Cliff Rodinson scored 11 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter, and Kevin Buckworth's only second-half basket was the game winner as the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 96-94.

The loss ended the Cavaliers' six game home winning streak.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Jansher beats Jahangir to win Pakistan Open

KARACHI (R) — Top seed Jansher Khan of Pakistan beat compatriot and defending champion Jahangir Khan to win the Pakistan Open squash title. The world number one took 65 minutes to clinch the final 15-13, 15-5, 15-12 and pocket the \$16,200 prize money. It was the 23-year-old Jansher's 10th title this year. Jahangir, 29, seeking to win the title for the 11th time, had no answer to the strokeplay of his younger opponent. After the match, Jahangir praised Jansher's performance and said: He played superb squash and gave me no chance to recover.

Honduras advance in World Cup qualifying

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (R) — Honduras clinched a berth in the next round of World Cup qualifying by beating Costa Rica 2-1 (1-0) in their Concacaf Group A match. The victory gave Honduras a total of eight points from five games and propelled them to the top of Group A. Mexico, who face St. Vincent in Mexico City also look ready to advance. Mexico, 4-0 winners over St. Vincent in their previous encounter, are currently on six points.

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY DECEMBER 7, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Four

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You have a good idea where you are headed and how to handle those expenses in connection with property interests that can accrue benefits and increase your general prosperity...

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Start the week by using the morning to put into motion a new perspective you gained over the weekend, tonight get into worldly phases of ambitions.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Decide upon the biggest course of action to which you can commit yourself and then you will be able to convince on of different ideas to go along with you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Whatever you have in mind where a worldly ambition is concerned can be rightly decided upon in morning, then tonight handle the practical aspects well.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get into all the tasks swiftly that awaits your attention early in the day, then you can bet the backing of those outside for a new business project.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Start the morning by showing others the extent of your most expansive special gifts, then you will be able to do further neat finish as suggested by contacts.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Keep a promise in the morning made to a member of your household, then you can get a

amusement with some chosen companions.

LIBRA: (September 23 to 22) Get out whatever emotions to a distance are pe the morning and good the low while tonight do via family members.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to 22) Get into extra financial horizons in the after which you will be able to accomplish this purpose.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 23 to 22) Take some to go after the things I desire the most in the while later you can handle matters in a practical fashion.

CAPRICORN: (December 23 to 22) Dismiss plans one of whom you are in during early hours but I will be able to do the it want to put across.

AQUARIUS: (January 23 to 19) Consider well, if intimate aims are and how let others who can help about them, then you have of your own to implement.

PISCES: (February 20 to 20) This is the moment a can put across outside in you have planned in the after which get together means for gaining the m soul.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harry



"Tell me about your day, Stanley — but please use words, not grunts!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob L.

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ENTAK

NIRPT

BLIMER

LOWALT

Answers: WILL YOU HAVE A

Saturday's Jumble: ABYSS BLOAT IMPORT SOLACE

Answer: They didn't like their math instructor because he always gave them this — "PROBLEMS"

WHAT THE WAITER SAID TO MARY.

Now arrange the circled letters from the jumbles above as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers tomorrow

Answers: ABYSS BLOAT IMPORT SOLACE

Answer: They didn't like their math instructor because he always gave them this — "PROBLEMS"

Answers tomorrow

Answers: ABYSS BLOAT IMPORT SOLACE

Answer: They didn't like their math instructor because he always gave them this — "PROBLEMS"

Answers tomorrow

Answers: ABYSS BLOAT IMPORT SOLACE

Answer: They didn't like their math instructor because he always gave them this — "PROBLEMS"

Answers tomorrow

Answers: ABYSS BLOAT IMPORT SOLACE

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India's rioting Hindus tear down mosque; chief minister resigns

AYODHYA, India (R) — Rioting Hindu militants Sunday demolished a mosque which they say stands on the birthplace of their god-king Lord Rama. Witnesses and foreign journalists said the 16th century shrine had been reduced to a pile of rubble after tens of thousands of Hindu hardliners attacked it with hammers and their bare hands. Authorities imposed a curfew on this north Indian pilgrimage town after security forces failed to control the riot, in which one person died and 150 were injured. Kalyan Singh, chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous and politically most important state where Ayodhya is located, has resigned, Indian news agencies reported from the state capital of Lucknow. Mr. Singh's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) rode to power in the state after last year's general elec-

tions on a campaign to build the temple without violating the law. The Indian cabinet was meeting in emergency session, and political analysts predicted it would declare central rule over Uttar Pradesh. More than 200,000 volunteers answered a call by Hindu political leaders to take part in peaceful "pre-construction" activities, but things quickly got out of hand. The three top leaders of the BJP were sitting in the crowd waiting for a religious ceremony to start when a handful of people began clambering over barbed wire barricades. Thousands followed, using their hands to pull away the coils of wire. They swarmed over the roof of the 16th century mosque, and chanting "victory to Lord Rama," demolished all three domes of the disputed shrine, as police retreated helplessly to a security post, witnesses said.

Thousands of others attacked the thick stone walls of the shrine and within hours the dilapidated building had collapsed, witnesses said. Mobs moved into the streets of Ayodhya where they toppled telephone poles and started fires in the streets to block anti-riot forces. About 25 ambulances, sirens blaring, ferried the injured to hospital. Some had been hurt by falling masonry, others were trampled underfoot by hysterical Hindus. Several photographers, including Reuters television cameraman Ramesh Chand, were among the injured. Mr. Chand was struck on the head and required 16 stitches. Militants, apparently angered by a British Broadcasting Corporation Television report on Ayodhya, robbed photographers

of their equipment. "What can we do? It's madness to try and stop this," said one policeman as he and his colleagues left the area. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad or World Hindu Council said earlier Sunday the volunteers would only clean up the area around the disputed shrine, not demolish the mosque. The programme was designed to avoid confrontation with the government and the country's Supreme Court, which has banned any construction work at the shrine. Hindu militants say the Moghul Emperor Babur tore down a Hindu temple in 1528 and erected the mosque to humiliate the conquered Hindu kingdoms. Muslims, who make up 100 million of India's 850 million population, say there is no proof of the claim.

Russian army warns Islamic fighters in Tajikistan

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan (R) — A Russian army commander, whose troops guard key installations in Tajikistan, told Islamic fighters on Sunday to leave the capital, Dushanbe. "I am calling on all illegal militia groups to leave the city. They are exacerbating the situation. We have enough forces to protect Dushanbe," Colonel Anatoly Ilyev, deputy commander of a former Soviet army division, said in a speech broadcast on Dushanbe Television. Col. Ilyev's forthright remarks, reported by local journalists in Dushanbe, appeared to mark a shift away from the Russian army's neutrality in the Tajik conflict. Hundreds of people have been

killed and thousands made homeless in months of warfare between rival clans and political factions in the impoverished state in former Soviet Central Asia. The central struggle pits ex-Communists, who have reasserted control over the government, against Islamic militants who control Dushanbe. About 80,000 refugees who had fled fighting in Shartuz, near the Afghan border, were now camped in fields in freezing cold and were "in a very desperate condition," the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross said Saturday. Col. Ilyev, second-in-command of the 201st Motor Rifle Division, gave the pro-Islamic fighters a Sunday mid-day deadline to re-

turn arms they had stolen or face Russian military action. "If these are not given back to us by midday (0700 GMT) today we will take counter-action," Col. Ilyev said. He said pro-Islamic militia units had stolen an army vehicle and a machinegun during fighting in the city suburbs and taken hostages two Russian officers. The officers were later freed. The officially-neutral Russian troops, under a bilateral agreement between Russia and Tajikistan, are guarding key installations including a hydro-electric plant, the airport, radio and television stations and strategic roads. Islamic factions and centrist leaders accuse Russian troops of favouring pro-Communist forces.

An announcer on Dushanbe Television, controlled by pro-Islamic forces, said after Col Ilyev's remarks: "We have evidence that Russian troops are interfering in the domestic affairs of Tajikistan." A loose coalition of Islamic radicals and self-styled parliamentary democrats ruled Tajikistan for 10 weeks after unseating ex-Communist President Rakhmon Nabiyev. But ex-Communists have staged a comeback and formed a new anti-Islamic government in the northern city of Khujand. The parliament, dominated by the former Communist old guard cannot move down to Dushanbe because of the fighting.

S. African police knew of terror campaign — paper

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A Johannesburg newspaper said Sunday South Africa's top police knew two months ago of an anti-white terror campaign but failed to warn local communities. "Instructions from police headquarters that target areas in the (Eastern Cape) border areas be warned of the threat never reached the people on the ground," the Sunday Times said. Four whites were killed and nearly 30 wounded in the Eastern Cape in a gun and grenade attack on a wine tasting party at a golf club on Oct. 31 and a bomb blast at a Steakhouse Restaurant last Thursday. Responsibility for the attacks have been claimed on behalf of the outlawed Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA), military wing of the radical black Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC). The attacks have raised fears of

a terror campaign against South Africa's minority white community over Christmas. Durban's Sunday Tribune newspaper said police had uncovered a secret APLA strategy codenamed "shock and show," which would focus attacks on white schoolchildren, farmers, motorists and members of the security forces in a bid to wreck democracy negotiations. The Sunday Times said it had established that Law and Order Minister Hensley Kriel and top policemen "were aware in early October that APLA was preparing to attack soft civilian targets in South Africa." It said Mr. Kriel told PAC leaders in a Nov. 11 meeting he knew APLA had a training base in the black Transkei homeland and was carrying out attacks from that territory.

Mr. Kriel appealed to the PAC as a gesture of goodwill to send APLA cadres "on a holiday for some months," the newspaper said. Law and Order Ministry spokesman Captain Craig Kotze said the newspaper report gave a false impression that government and police had done nothing over APLA's plans. "Nothing could be further from the truth," he said. He said that South African police and Transkei had formed a joint task force to deal with APLA activities from the homeland, one of 10 tribal areas set aside by Pretoria during the apartheid era to segregate the races. Mr. Kotze said the task force was looking at ways to minimise APLA activities in the Eastern Cape. APLA Commander Sabelo Phama told Independent Radio

702 in a telephone interview from an undisclosed location Saturday that he could not immediately confirm APLA's responsibility for the two attacks in the Eastern Cape. But he said his only concern was for the safety of his own men and that they successfully completed any operation they embarked on. In a separate development three people were shot dead and their bodies burned down around them near Richmond in South Africa's volatile Natal province on Saturday night, police reported. An official of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) said a prominent member of the IFP's youth brigade at Imbali near Pietermaritzburg died Saturday after being shot in an attack on his home on Friday night.

Russia's destiny is to be superpower — Gorbachev

SANTIAGO (R) — Russia's destiny is to become a superpower and Russians know it, despite turmoil in their country, said former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Chile. Mr. Gorbachev, whose reforms led to the disintegration of the Soviet Union, also said democratic reforms in Russia will "let the nation breathe again." "Russia will play the role of a great power, that is its destiny... Russians feel this. This explains the heated passions in search for roads to lead us out of our present crisis," Mr. Gorbachev told a seminar at the University of Chile. "The discussions in Russia are explosive... the steps towards democratic reforms that will let the nation breathe again the difficult," said Mr. Gorbachev, who

arrived in Chile Thursday as part of a Latin American tour that will also take him to Brazil and Mexico. Russian President Boris Yeltsin is wrestling with headline opponents who aim to slow reforms which have cut production and sent inflation soaring. While Mr. Gorbachev has said Mr. Yeltsin is going too fast in some reforms, like privatisation, the former leader has also stressed during his visit his belief in the need for reforms to be carried out. "When I started my reforms, the society was rotten throughout... perestroika enriched us... but there were mistakes," he told a conference Friday organised by the Latin American arm of his Moscow-based Gorbachev Foundation.

NATO to cut forces faster as budgets shrink

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO plans to build a network of multinational forces to defend Europe in new crises may have to be cut because some allies are slashing their defence budgets faster and deeper than anticipated, diplomats and officials say. The 16-nation Western alliance has agreed to reshape and slim down its forces now the cold war is over, setting up "rapid reaction" units and a number of multinational corps for the defence of NATO. Some of them may also be used for peacekeeping. But, as alliance defence ministers prepare to meet in Brussels this week, sources say it has become clear that some nations will not be able to meet their planned commitments to these new forces and that funds are shrinking.

"It doesn't mean the basic framework will be changed but... clearly, there will have to be adjustments to the detailed structure that was agreed," a senior North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) official told reporters last week. The Netherlands called a meeting of NATO ambassadors last week to explain that it will not be able to meet previously planned commitments and to argue that the alliance should rethink the kind of forces it needs in the post-cold war world. Belgium has also made clear it will not be able to take the leading role as planned in a new corps that would include U.S. and German troops. Canada has said it will withdraw its remaining troops in Europe and there is a question mark over the future strength of U.S. troop commitment to the continent.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Slovenes vote in national elections

LJUBLJANA (R) — Slovenes voted Sunday in the first national elections in the small Alpine republic since it seceded from former Yugoslavia in 1991. Government and independent forecasts predicted that more than 80 per cent of the 1.5 million Slovenian voters would turn out to choose a president and delegates to a new, two-house parliament. Personalities rather than issues have dominated the campaign, with most leading parties promising roughly the same formula for leading the country away from the vestiges of socialism and into a full market economy, with a revitalised banking system and gradual moves to privatisation. They differ the most on social issues, with the right-of-centre parties, led by the Christian Democrats, advocating family-oriented values including subsidies for families with children and moral influence in schools. The Liberal Democrats, who control the current parliament, have taken a middle-of-the-road position and want limits on the powers of central government.

U.S. mission in Bratislava bugged

BRATISLAVA, Czechoslovakia (R) — An electronic listening device has been found in the U.S. Consulate General in Bratislava, prompting a protest from Washington, Czechoslovak State Television reported Saturday. The state-run Federal Television said Czechoslovakia's ambassador to the United States, Michael Zantovsky, had been summoned to the Steps Department Friday to hear a U.S. protest over the incident. U.S. Consul General Paul Hacker, asked to comment on the report, told Reuters that "something was found" but he said he had no further details at this stage. Mr. Hacker had just returned to the Slovak capital from leave. According to the television report, the device had been of recent manufacture, making it unlikely that it had been planted before the U.S. started using the building as its consulate in May, 1991.

EC enters decisive week

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community (EC) is entering the decisive week for its efforts to rescue the Maastricht Treaty, renew the momentum towards political and monetary union and revive the flagging European economy. The countdown to a summit showdown in Edinburgh next weekend begins in earnest Monday when the 12 EC foreign ministers embark on a two-day meeting to prepare the agenda. The stakes could not be higher. By this time next week, the community could be celebrating a deal to satisfy Denmark's objections to the Maastricht Treaty, a settlement of bitter arguments over its budget, an initiative to try to stimulate economic growth and an immediate start to membership talks with a clutch of Western neighbours. If things go badly — and diplomats acknowledge the formidable obstacles littering the road to Edinburgh — the EC's much-heralded single market will begin in three weeks' time with the Community sunk in economic recession and political crisis. Senior diplomats are convinced that despite resentment over the way in which Britain has handled its EC presidency, allowing anti-Community feeling at home to influence unduly the bloc's agenda, heads of government are desperate for a summit deal.

Sarajevo is without phones, power

SARAJEVO (R) — Sarajevo was without telephones and most of the besieged city had no electricity Sunday after a day of heavy bombardment in which an outer suburb was reported to have been captured by heavily-armed Serbs.

In Belgrade, the Serbian electoral commission was preparing to meet to reconsider the bid by moderate Yugoslav Premier Milan Panic to stand against hardline nationalist Slobodan Milosevic in Dec. 20 presidential elections.

The commission last week ruled Mr. Panic ineligible because he had not been a resident for a year, but on Saturday the Serbian Supreme Court overturned that decision and ordered the commission to rule again.

In Sarajevo two high-rise buildings in the city centre were still burning at dawn after being hit by tracer fire during a heavy bombardment Saturday.

Sporadic heavy machinegun and mortar fire could be heard throughout the night, particularly to the West of the downtown Holiday Inn, home to the foreign press, which was itself hit Saturday by tracer fire that set one room ablaze.

Bosnian Serb Television Saturday night showed Serb soldiers walking through Otes, a Muslim suburban township some eight kilometres west of the city centre, indicating it had fallen after five days of heavy artillery bombardment.

The Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency had earlier reported the town was in Serb hands.

The last word from the city's Muslim and Croat defenders Saturday night was that they had fallen back to a second line of defence and consolidated their position.

No refugees came out of Otes via the most feasible route through neighbouring Stup Saturday evening, after a flood of several hundred poured across on Friday night, suggesting that the flow was over and the remaining civilians were trapped.

The Bosnian army general staff said in a statement Saturday that Otes had been almost totally destroyed and there had been heavy civilian casualties, due in part to the fact that few houses had cellars where they could shelter from the shelling.

Bosnian radio said there had been at least 100 civilian casualties.



An elderly Bosnian carries wood as he prepares for winter in Sarajevo (AFP photo)

ties, and more than 600 townspeople fled to other parts of the city Friday.

One elderly refugee said: "The entire town was on fire... there was mortar fire and people were running and some were falling on the ground and crying for help, but there was nothing that we could do but keep going."

The U.N. estimated that over 4,000 rounds of artillery fire had hit the town over five days.

The continued fighting in Sarajevo, which has closed the airport for aid flights to the stricken city and added to its refugee crisis, brought an outburst of frustration from U.N. commanders.

Brigadier-General Adnan Abdul Razek, Egyptian commander of 1,400 troops in and around the city, said he personally believed the warring factions should

be threatened with U.N. military intervention and a public trial of those responsible for the bloodshed.

The existing U.N. mandate for Bosnia covers only monitoring of fighting and providing humanitarian aid to civilians.

"There is no ceasefire... we are not making any progress, this situation is deteriorating... All our efforts here to save lives and restore utilities are completely failed," he told reporters Saturday.

As fighting raged elsewhere in the city Saturday, two Portuguese U.N. police were injured when a mortar hit the airport terminal.

On a positive note, a U.N. convoy finally succeeded in bringing medicine to the besieged Muslim town of Srebrenica after refusing a demand from local Serbs to hand over half of it.

Gays oppose cabinet post for Nunn

NEW YORK (R) — Gay rights groups say Senator Sam Nunn's removal of two of his staff a decade ago for being gay disqualified him from a post in the incoming administration of Bill Clinton, the New York Times said Sunday.

The Georgia Democrat, chairman of the powerful Senate Armed Services Committee and said to be a leading candidate for secretary of defence, has confirmed that he asked the two openly gay staff members to leave because of their sexual persuasion, the newspaper said.

Sen. Nunn says he dismissed them for security reasons, citing the fact that they were considered a risk by the CIA and the Defence Department, both of which contended that their homosexuality could leave them open to blackmail.

Gay groups have been battling Sen. Nunn since the dismissal of the two men was first reported in the Washington Blade, a gay weekly newspaper, the Times said.

Sen. Nunn, who opposes President-Elect Bill Clinton's plan to end the ban on homosexuals in the military, has said he

routinely hires openly gay people in jobs that do not require security clearance.

Robert Bray of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force told the Times he hoped Sen. Nunn's name would be stricken from the short list of possible candidates for secretary of defence.

"What he did was loathsome and discriminatory," Mr. Bray told the newspaper.

"How could we expect a Secretary of Defence Nunn to implement the rescinding of the anti-gay military policy when he's firing staff members for being gay?"

One of the two men dismissed by Sen. Nunn was quoted in the newspaper as calling the Democrat a "homophobe," while the other said Sen. Nunn let him stay on the job for six months after he had been termed a security risk.

"He sat down with me, face to face," the former aide, Greg Baldwin, was quoted as saying. "I've worked with homophobes and they don't do it that way."

Meanwhile, President-Elect Clinton has narrowed his field of candidates for White House

budget director to Representative Leon Panetta of California and economist Alice Rivlin, the New York Times reported.

The newspaper said Mr. Clinton was leaning more strongly towards Mr. Panetta, the Democratic chairman of the House of Representatives' Budget Committee, after interviewing him in Little Rock, Arkansas, last week.

Ms. Rivlin had been the early favourite for the post, in part because Mr. Clinton hoped to appoint women to prominent posts in his administration, the newspaper reported, citing a Clinton associate as its source.

But Mr. Panetta became the more likely choice after Mr. Clinton read a book written by Ms. Rivlin whose conclusions differed from Mr. Clinton's own economic thinking in some areas, the newspaper reported.

The post is one of the most powerful in economic policy after treasury secretary. Mr. Clinton has already chosen Texas Senator Lloyd Bentsen to serve as treasury secretary, sources in the transition team said Saturday.

The president-elect planned to announce his economic team this week, the sources said.

Ukraine survives 1st year of independence

KIEV (R) — Ukraine, once second fiddle to Russia in the Soviet Union, has survived its first year of independent statehood intact and is starting to play a new solo part on the world stage.

A year after winning effective independence from Moscow, Ukrainians boast that a new national consciousness has taken root. Violence and ethnic clashes have been largely avoided.

But its citizens, struggling to make ends meet with steep price rises, depleted food stores and 30 per cent monthly inflation, are marking the first birthday in subdued fashion.

"The situation is contradictory. Our state has international recognition and state structures have been created but people can feel no economic improvement," President Leonid Kravchuk told a television interviewer last week.

"There is dissatisfaction because people are being continually told to withstand the difficulties and wait. It's very hard, because there is no other way."

Most of the 52 million population are undoubtedly proud of the independence Ukraine enjoys after seven decades of Soviet rule and nearly three centuries under

the Russian tsars. Although its diplomatic role is limited, it is now a signatory to the START arms treaty and has contributed Ukrainian units to U.N. peacekeeping troops in Bosnia.

The Ukrainian language, derided by many Communists as a "deformation or Russian," is the sole means of communication at official events. More and more schools are switching over to its exclusive use.

Its army, the biggest in Europe after Russia's is forming its own structures. Border guards and customs agents man frontiers. Air Ukraine operates flights to London and New York.

But bereft of resources and hobbled by a legacy of an economy controlled by Moscow and aimed at supplying the military, nothing seems to run smoothly in Ukraine.

Ordinary citizens paid scant attention to last week's anniversary of the referendum endorsing the Ukrainian parliament's August 1991 independence declaration — the event which is effect precipitated the collapse of the Soviet Union.

They are unlikely to react any differently on Dec. 8, the date a

year ago when Russia effectively recognised Ukrainian independence by agreeing to abolish the Soviet Union as a state.

People have lost out materially as the new Kiev government tries to redeem the inept efforts of its predecessor, forced from office in disgrace.

Thirty per cent monthly inflation has, according to Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma, reduced many pensioners to spending virtually all their fixed income on food.

Some staples have vanished from store shelves or are rationed, like butter or sugar. Erratic deliveries of fuel from Russia have grounded virtually all flights for the past two weeks and disrupted rail and road transport.

Since taking over in October from the discredited Vitold Fokin, Mr. Kuchma has undertaken to curb inflation and a budget deficit representing 44 per cent of gross national product. He also promised help for the worst-off.

The prime minister has bluntly warned Ukrainians of worse times ahead. He has earned the confidence of Western financial institutions exasperated by the inaction of his predecessor.

COLUN 8

'Natty' Clinton golf in bad weather

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — President-Elect Bill Clinton, taking a page from George Bush's style, took a break and p — in a mix of rain, snow, Mr. Clinton, who day with a 40-minute covered 4.7 miles through the streets. Rock, ignored the bitter downed a black rain; grey cap for his golf cap put on his golfing. Clinton turned to the accompanying him in "do you think this cap is too many to be in. The reporters indicated Mr. Clinton's refusal to nice weather to play golf the pattern established Bush over the past four, has frequently played weather insisting it wa

O'Toole's illness cancels 2 play performances

LONDON (AP) — Performances of the success End Play Our Song were led because its star O'Toole, is suffering from a throat infection, a woman said. Director rin decided to cancel the the Apollo Theatre O'Toole is on stage for two hours of the play spokeswoman, O'Toole drinking a decade ago, a heavy smoker.

China warns of million-strong bachelor army

PEKING (R) — China warned its people that families start having babies, an "army" of bachelors will be too countryside looking for the end of the century proportion of males now is already out of balance. The Farmer's Daily, a paper said 51.45 per cent of the 1.1 billion people, with the percentage of creasing in younger age. The ratio of male births to female is now 114 to 100 which could lead to what "an army of 70 million" by the end of the century the 25 to 49 age group, the times more unmarried women, it newspaper did not say discrepancy exists. Anal the problem may stem from a strict birth control which limit most families child. As traditional family to have a son, many pe taking advantage of modern techniques to idea abort girl fetuses so they again to have a boy. In backward areas, for fantastic is also a pi according to occasional the official media.

China smokers may get puff of foreign tobacco

PEKING (R) — China's lion smokers may soon be puff away at foreign tobacco. The country considers imports, the China Daily Sunday. "We are taking a reform the current system supply and sale of tobacco cigarettes as the country toward a market-oriented economy," said Li Fuchen, a cial at the State Tobacco Monopoly Administration newspaper did not say new policy will take effect. China will still mean domestic production, and high taxes. Foreign tobacco special cachet. Anyone returning abroad is expected to give a foreign cigarettes to friends a carton of American cigarettes. China's most common Foreign tobacco is so popular cigarettes account for 60 per of all smuggled goods, the paper said. China is in the of setting up two wholesale co markets, one in Peking one in Shanghai, it said. Shanghai market would be foreign tobacco as well as domestic products.

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